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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania DATE DISTR. 26 Nov 1951

SUBJECT

Views on Organizing an Anti-Hoxha Movement

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- The Albanian people are extremely demoralized because of difficult living conditions, constant police persecution, imprisonment of popular figures, and the indescribable suffering of thousands of innocent persons, including women, the aged, children and even infants, who are confined to concentration camps. Nevertheless, faith in a national rebirth is strong. Each heroic action, each execution by Hoxha's firing squads, only spurs the people's hopes for a future Albania.
- 2. The morale of the Albanian people would most effectively be lifted and strengthened by the active existence in Albania of a movement for the country's liberation organized on a mass scale. Such an organization could be founded even at this point, despite demoralization resulting from the dashing of earlier hopes for the early liberation of the country.
- 3. An organization would be especially effective in the northern regions of Albania, where the population is homogeneous and where factious elements of personal ambition and political diversity do not exist. In the southern regions, where such dissensions do exist, a large part of the population would approve stabilization of the present regime or even establishment of Greek hegemony over their territory. Basing an anti-Hoxha movement from the south, therefore, would require the excessive expenditure of time and effort and the unnecessary sacrifice of valuable
- Considerable possibility exists for penetration of the Army and the police by an anti-Communist organization. As undertaking such a step would be extremely dangerous, the attempt would require a great deal of time, considerable financial resources, and the careful exploitation of capable and influential men within those Government services. There is widespread discontent in the Army, and for this reason, the Army is ripe for a penetration attempt. The police, on the other hand, are more strongly supported by the Hoxha regime and its personnel bound together by common crimes, espionage, and other unsavory factors.

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